an output device ~~outputting the selected~~ reply to the host,

wherein the fixed form reply sets are stored separately from the message.

25.   (AS THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program instructing a computer to perform:

storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;

storing a message separately from the fixed form reply sets, the message being inputted separately from the fixed form reply sets;

receiving the message from a host;

selecting a fixed form reply set independent of the message;

allowing a user to choose a reply from the selected fixed form reply set;

sending the chosen reply to the host; and

computing the frequency of chosen replies sent to the host.

REMARKS

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-25 are pending.

Claims 1, 7, 9, 13, 17, 21, and 25 are amended.

II.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 6-22, AND 24-25 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Pages 2-3 of the Office Action reject claims 1-4, 6-22 and 24-25 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Peters et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,893,098 in view of Pinter, U.S. patent No. 5,894, 506.

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In the Attachment to the Advisory Action dated September 5, 2002, the Examiner states, 'With respect to applicant's argument that Peter does not teach "data for reply independent of the message," has been considered. In reply: Fig. 5 in the application discloses a message of "Today is fine, isn't it"' and data for reply of "I agree," "absolutely." Note that these replies are related upon the original message. The independent between the message and the data for reply is that the message and the data for reply are displayed at a different location of the display. Since Fig. 8, Peter shows that the message and data of reply are displayed at a different location of a display. A user would see the message with the data for reply being covered up and vice versa. Therefore, Peter teaches "data for reply independent of the message."'

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for taking the time to previously discuss this issue with the Applicant via telephone. In view of our discussion, the Applicant presents the following.

Claim 1 is amended to recite, "output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message and inputted separately from the message;"

It is noted that in Figure 8 of Peter, the data for a reply is inputted along with the message. For example, the operator enters "Will you be taking leave from work between 1 May 94 and 1 July 94?" and also enters the following responses, "yes I will be taking leave during this period," "no I will not be taking leave during this period," and "I am not sure at this time." Note that Peter, column 16, line 60 states, "The author (local user) can now go ahead and create the final question in the survey document . . ." Thus, the author is authoring and inputting the question and answers together.

In contrast, the present invention recited that data for a reply is independent of the message and **inputted separately** from the message. One possible benefit of this approach, as one example, is that this can typically result in saving an author time as he is not required to input answers individually for example as in Peter.

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Therefore, <u>Peter</u> does not disclose or suggest the feature discussed above, Further, <u>Pinter</u> does not disclose (or suggest) said data for a reply independent of the message <u>and</u> <u>inputted separately from the message</u>. In <u>Pinter</u>, responses are chosen along with the message, like <u>Peter</u>. Please see the previously filed Amendment for a more detailed discussed of <u>Peter</u> and <u>Pinter</u>. Further, the combination of these two reference also does not suggest this feature either, as there is nothing in the combination to suggest such an embodiment.

Therefore, in view of the above, the Applicant submits that claim 1 is not unpatentable over the applied references.

The remaining independent claims are amended similarly to claim 1, and in view of the above, are also not unpatentable over the applied references.

In view of the above, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

IV.   REJECTION OF CLAIMS 5 AND 23 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Page 17 of the Action rejects claims 5 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over <u>Peters</u> and <u>Pinter</u> and further in view of Ginter et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,982,891 (Hereinafter "<u>Ginter</u>").

Claims 5 and 23 are dependent upon claims 1 and 21, which for the above reasons should be allowed over the prior art.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

V. CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.
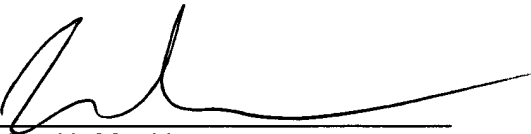
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date: 16/16/0

By: _____
Jon H. Muskin
Registration No. 43,824

700 Eleventh Street, NW, Suite 500
Washington, D.C. 20001

(202) 434-1500

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND the following claims (all of the claims are listed below for the Examiner's convenience):

1.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system for managing an electronic message and a reply to said message, comprising:

storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message <u>and inputted separately from the message</u>; and

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message.

2.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, further comprising:

fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of fixed form replies by data for respectively specifying said plurality of replies, and

totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each of fixed form replies as the reply to the message, and storing results of the totalization of each of fixed form replies to the message in relation to said specifying data.

3.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, wherein said control means has means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message, and managing the inputted free form reply in relation to data to specify said message.

4.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 2, wherein said control means has means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message, and managing the inputted free form reply in relation to data to specify said message.

5.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, wherein said data for a fixed form reply is one kind or the combination of plural kinds of data selected from a plurality of kinds including text, still picture, speech, sound and moving pictures.

6.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 1, wherein said control means includes means for causing said output means to output data for a fixed form reply of the kind which fits contents of the message.

7.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) an electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus, said client apparatus comprising:
   storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message;
   output means for outputting the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message and inputted separately from the message;
   control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and
   communication control means for transmitting the selection to the server apparatus.

8.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 7, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

9.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages electronic messages transmitted from the client apparatus, comprising:
   said server apparatus comprising:
   storage means for storing data for a fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic messages;
   communication control means for transmitting said data for a reply to the client apparatus;

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said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving said data for a reply sent from the server apparatus, said data for a reply independent of the electronic messages <u>and inputted separately from the messages</u>;

output means for outputting the message with the received data for a reply to the message;

control means for accepting only the selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to the message; and

transmission control means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply to the server apparatus.

10. (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 9, wherein the client apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of fixed form replies by data for respectively specifying said plurality of replies, and communication control means for transmitting specifying data of the selected reply to the server apparatus as a reply, and the server apparatus comprises communication control means for receiving the specifying data transmitted from the client apparatus as a reply, and totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message based on said specifying data, and storing the results of the totalization of each reply to said message in relation said specifying data.

11. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 9, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

12. (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 10, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

13.   (FIVE TIMES AMENDED) An electronic news system including a client apparatus and a server apparatus which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message transmitted from the client apparatus,

said server apparatus comprising:

storage means for storing data for a first fixed form reply, stored separately from the electronic message and independent from the electronic message and inputted separated from the message;

communication control means for transmitting the data for the first fixed form reply to tile client apparatus,

said client apparatus comprising:

receiving control means for receiving the first data for the first fixed form reply sent from the server apparatus;

storage means for storing data for second fixed form reply, stored separately from the message;

output means for outputting the message with said data for the first or second fixed form reply;

control means for accepting only a selection out of the outputted data for the first fixed form reply based on the category of the message as the reply to the message; and

means for controlling the transmission for transmitting the selected reply out of the data for the first or second fixed form reply to the server apparatus.

14.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 13, wherein the server apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of first fixed form replies with data for respectively specifying said replies, and means for transmitting the specifying data of the first fixed form reply to the client apparatus along with said reply,

the client apparatus comprises fixed form reply managing means for managing a plurality of second fixed form replies with the data for respectively specifying said replies, and means for causing said transmission controlling means to transmit the selected second reply or the selected specifying data of the first reply to the server apparatus as a reply,

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said server apparatus further comprises means for transmitting specifying data of the second fixed form reply to the client apparatus, and means for receiving the second reply or specifying data of the first reply transmitted from the client apparatus as a reply in said communication control means, and totaling means for totaling a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message based on said specifying data, and storing the results of the totalization of each reply to said message in relation said specifying data,

said client apparatus further comprises means for receiving the specifying data of the second fixed form reply sent from the server apparatus in said receiving control means, and means for outputting the stored second fixed form reply based on said specifying data in said output means.

15.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 13, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to data for specifying said message.

16.   (AS UNAMENDED) An electronic news system according to claim 14, wherein the client apparatus comprises means for accepting an input of a free form reply to the message in said control means, and the server apparatus comprises free form reply managing means for managing the free form reply transmitted from the client apparatus in relation to the data for specifying said message.

17.   (FOUR TIMES AMENDED) A recording medium readable by a computer which manages an electronic message and a reply to said message, comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to store data for a fixed form reply in said computer, the fixed form reply being stored separately from the electronic message;

program code means for causing said computer to output the message with said data for a reply to the message, said data for a reply independent of the message and inputted separately from the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to accept only a selection out of the outputted data for a reply as the reply to said message.

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18.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 17, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to manage a plurality of fixed form replies with data for respectively specifying said replies; and

program code means for causing said computer to total a number of the selections of each reply as the reply to the message and store the results of totaling the totalization of each reply to said messages in relation to said specifying data.

19.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 17, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to accept an input of a free form reply to the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to manage the inputted free form reply in relation to data for specifying said message.

20.   (AS ONCE AMENDED) A recording medium according to claim 18, further comprising:

program code means for causing said computer to accept an input of the free form reply to the message; and

program code means for causing said computer to manage the inputted free form reply in relation to data for specifying said message.

21.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A message system comprising:

a reply data storage device storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;

a controller receiving a message from a host and allowing a user to select a reply from a fixed form reply set stored in the reply data storage device, the fixed form reply set independent of the message and inputted separately from the message;

an output device outputting the selected reply to the host,

wherein the fixed form reply sets are stored separately from the message.

22.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the controller selects a fixed form reply set based on a category of the message.

23.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the reply sets can include video or audio data.

24.   (AS UNAMENDED) The message system as recited in claim 21 wherein, the host receives a plurality of the outputted selected fixed form replies and displays a bar graph illustrating a frequency of responses.

25.   (THREE TIMES AMENDED) A computer readable storage medium storing a computer program instructing a computer to perform:
    storing a plurality of fixed form reply sets, each fixed form reply set containing a plurality of replies;
    storing a message separately from the fixed form reply sets, the message being inputted separately from the fixed form reply sets;
    receiving the message from a host;
    selecting a fixed form reply set independent of the message;
    allowing a user to choose a reply from the selected fixed form reply set;
    sending the chosen reply to the host; and
    computing the frequency of chosen replies sent to the host.